

REMARKS

Claims 1-26 of the patent application were presented for examination. In the Office Action of May 12, 2007, claims 1-26 were rejected. The claims, as amended, are listed above. Claims 1, 7, 9, 15 and 17-26 have been cancelled. New claims 27-34 have been added. The new claims introduce no new matter. Accordingly, claims 2-6, 8, 10-14, 16 and 27-34 are now pending for examination.

Applicants respond to the Office Action as follows:

Specification Amendment

The specification was amended as shown above. The amendment merely spells out acronyms that are well known in the art. Therefore, no new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC § 102(e)

In paragraph 2 of the Office Action, claims 1-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being unpatentable over US Patent Publication No. 2005/0251631 A1 ("Rowlands"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections.

New independent claim 27 is representative of new independent claims 33 and 34. More specifically, claim 27 is directed towards a method for communicating application programming interface (API) capabilities supported by a first device to a second device for establishing communication. The method comprises the step of:

generating a first bit stream to send from the first device to the second

device, the first bit stream representing a highest API feature installed and intermediary API features installed on the first device, wherein all of the API intermediary features are not required to utilize the API highest feature;

receiving a second bit stream sent from the second device to the first device, the second bit stream representing a highest API feature installed and intermediary API features installed on the second device; and

comparing the first and second bit streams to configure communications between the APIs for mutually supported features, the mutually supported features including a highest feature in common to both the first and second device and including the intermediary API features in common.

Advantageously, the method of claim 27 allows communication between APIs of two devices utilizing a highest API feature level without requiring that each of the intermediary API features be installed.

Rowlands generally discloses a shared memory system including a plurality of processing nodes that are operably coupled (Abstract). The chips use high-speed bus protocols such as HyperTransport (HT) bus, Revision 1.04 ([0007]). A capabilityID field provides other nodes in the system a knowledge of the HT capabilities possessed by a chip ([0092]). The capabilityID of the capability table in FIG 17 indicates that the node is an HT device, capability 08h. Thus, Rowlands provides a single capability between nodes of an integrated system.

However, Rowlands fails to disclose or teach each and every element of the claims as recited in amended claim 27. Specifically, whereas the bit streams of claim 27 represent a highest API feature and intermediary API features, the capability block of Rowlands appears to disclose a single bus capability, e.g., 08h or Revision 1.04. Secondly, whereas the bit streams of claim 27 can be formatted for transport across heterogeneous systems existing across a network,

the capabilityID field of Rowlands, being in an integrated system, fails to disclose a delivery mechanism for communicating capabilities.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that new claim 27, and related dependent claims, are patentable over Rowlands. Additionally, new independent claims 34-35, and related dependent claims, are patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 27.

CONCLUSION

Applicants' attorney believes this application is in condition for allowance. Should any unresolved issues remain, Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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